



STATE REPRESENTATIVE **BETH MEYERS**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
10/22/15

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MEYERS RECUSES HERSELF FROM VOTING FOR THE CORRUPT POLITICIAN PROTECTION ACT

MADISON – State Representative Beth Meyers (D – Bayfield) issued the following statement regarding her refusal to vote for recent legislative proposals that passed the State Assembly this week. These bills related to the recent John Doe investigation against Governor Scott Walker as well as sweeping campaign finance reform changes.

“On Tuesday the legislature passed legislation that would no longer allow prosecutors to conduct John Doe investigations of political crimes, the exact kind of investigation that was conducted of Scott Walker's campaign and conservative groups. It's apparent that the Majority Party wants to make sure that never again can political corruption be explored. It's evident that these members are trying to protect themselves from further investigations,” said Meyers.

On Wednesday, the State Assembly passed legislation to rewrite campaign finance laws and dissolve the state ethics and elections board and create two commissions to do the work associated with campaign finance. These sweeping changes will allow unlimited corporate donations to political parties and legislative campaign committees as well individual or corporation to anonymously spend an unlimited amount of money for or against a state or local candidate.

“Instead of working to improve economic security for hardworking people, the Majority Party is dead set on consolidating their power, making it easier for corruption and cronyism and helping corporations have more influence over government. What is it going to take for them to stop focusing on themselves and instead focus on the taxpayers who put them in office?” stated Meyers.

“The Majority party has changed the law so that politics and politicians can't be investigated and on top of that, they also changed the campaign finance laws to allow more campaign money to flow in during election season. The constituents of the 74th Assembly District have not asked for these changes. I have never heard a constituent say that Wisconsin needs more money in politics or more corporate influence in politics,” said Meyers.

In explaining her recusal from the vote, Representative Meyers referenced the ethics of the oath of office taken when legislators are sworn into office.

“As a State Representative, I need to always be as ethical in my decisions and vote with my constituents' interests in mind, over my own. For this bill, my decision to not vote was based on how it would affect me and other legislators, which for me was a significant conflict of interest,” stated Meyers.